

SB NEWSLIN @ ALLBBS \$NLIN.922

Amateur Radio Newsline #922 16 Apr 1995

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Text Version information

BBS Networks: RIME - RO mail to Steve Coletti, ->35

Fido - Netmail to Steve Coletti @ 1:278/230

Others - Steve Coletti (within the conference)

Online Services: America Online - tstader@aol.com (Terry Stader, Sysop)
or D.CARY@genie.geis.com

Compuserv, Delphi, Genie - D.CARY@genie.geis.com

Usenet: rec.radio.info - david@stat.com (David Dodell, Moderator)

File Requests: FidoNet users can Freq the latest edition of NEWSLINE
from Joe Brown, KB2NBN 1:2625/111

FTP to oak.oakland.edu - wylz@neu.edu (Scott Erlich,
Boston ARC - libraian)

Internet E-Mail: Send mail to listserv@netcom.com with the
following commands in the body of the message
(the subject is ignored)

To subscribe: subscribe newsline-list

To unsubscribe: unsubscribe newsline-list

For more information: help

Manual mailing lists are also maintained by bigsteve@dorsai.org for individual subscribers and by D.CARY@genie.geis.com for BBS's and radio clubs that redistribute Newsline.

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NEWSLINE RADIO - CBBS EDITION #922 - POSTED 04/16/95

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The following is late news about Amateur Radio for Radio Amateurs as prepared from NEWSLINE RADIO scripts by the staff of the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, INC. -- formerly the WESTLINK RADIO NETWORK. For current information updates, please call

Audio Version of Newsline

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Los Angeles..... (213) 462-0008
Los Angeles (Instant Update Line)..... (805) 296-2407
Seattle..... (206) 368-3969
Seattle..... (206) 281-8455
Tacoma..... (206) 927-7373
Louisville..... (502) 894-8559
Dayton..... (513) 275-9991
Chicago..... (708) 289-0423
New York City..... Out Of Service
Melbourne, FL..... (407) 768-7447

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Electronic Hardcopy Version of Newsline

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GEnie (RTC Bulletin Board)..... m345;1
GEnie (File Library)..... m345;3
Dallas Remote Imaging BBS (DRIG)..... (214) 492-7573
  In bulletin number 36
The Midwest Connection BBS..... (701) 239-2440
  In bulletin number 6 of the ham radio conference
Delphi.....In the ham radio conference
CompuServe/HamNet..... HamNet Library 0
Internet.....In the rec.radio.info newsgroup
Internet FTP: oak.oakland.edu.....
  In archive: pub/hamradio/docs/newsline
Local BBS's.....In the Ham Radio conferences on
  Fidonet, RIME, Intellec, I-Link and AR-Net

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For questions or comments about the text version, contact me at D.CARY@GENIE.GEIS.COM on the Internet.

For the latest breaking info call the Instant Update Line listed above. To provide information please call (805) 296-7180. This

line answers automatically and will accept up to 30 minutes of material.

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For further information about the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, please write to us with an SASE at P.O. Box 463, Pasadena, CA 91102.

Thank You
NEWSLINE

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Some of the hams of NEWSLINE RADIO...

WA6ITF WB6MQV WB6FDF K6DUE W6RCL N6AHU N6AWE N6TCQ K6PGX N6PNY
KU8R N8DTN W9JUV KC9RP K9XI KB4KCH KC5UD KC0HF G8AUU WD0AKO DJ0QN
and many others in the United States and around the globe!!!

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[922]

The following is a QST

The coast guard says goodbye forever to Morse Code, the ARRL tells its members that the W5YI petition to ban one-way transmissions on the high frequency bands is a threat to W1AW and Newsline asks the FCC to extend the commentary cutoff date on this matter. All this and more on an extended Newsline report number 922 coming your way right now!

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COAST GUARD CW IS RIP

The Coast Guard, after nearly a century of monitoring telegraph distress calls has turned off its Morse code equipment forever. At about 0015 UTC on April 1st the U.S. Coast Guard station in Chesapeake, Virginia tapped out the end of its final message and then turned off its gear.

In April 1993, the Coast Guard ceased CW operations on medium wave frequencies of 400-500 kHz. That same June they graduated their last class of communications specialists trained in the use

Morse code.

In closing down, the Coast Guard has followed the lead of other services that have abandoned to use Morse Code. The Navy had long ago given up CW in their communications. Everything is now sent by voice or digital modes.

The Coast Guard says that one of the primary reasons it decided to curtail Morse operations is because the use of code by merchant ships has declined in recent years as it has for the military.

But the managers for shore stations KFS in San Francisco and WLO in Mobile, Alabama have a different view. They say that the decline of CW has stopped. At least for smaller ships that cannot afford to retrofit for satellite services. Both stations plan to continue offering CW service to those ships whose owners will not or cannot afford the additional expense of new computerized communications equipment.

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ARRL SAYS MAIA PETITION THREATENS W1AW

It's beginning to sound as if the American Radio Relay League is gearing up to do battle with W5YI Report Newsletter editor Fred Maia and with the FCC over Maia's filing for a rules change. A proposal by Maia that will, if enacted, end all one-way bulletin transmissions on the high frequency bands.

In a message to its members the League says that Maia's petition is a threat to headquarters station W1AW. The league appears to be going on the offensive to try to kill the proposal before it gets to the Notice of Proposed Rule Making stage.

As reported last week, the FCC has assigned file number RM-8626 to the Maia petition. In its release on the ARRL points out that Maia is the publisher of a commercial newsletter, seeming to emphasize the word commercial.

The League goes on to say that the effect of the petition would be to put an end to the long tradition of service by its W1AW bulletin and code practice transmissions, and those of others.

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PACKET FLAMES AT RM-8626

Nor is the ARRL alone in opposing. Several packet groups are already public in their opposition and the packet boards are literally flaming on this issue. There is fear among packet radio advocates that if enacted, the Maia proposal could mean the end of high frequency bulletin board operations. This, because packet operators say that the vast majority of postings to these boards are one-way bulletin type transmissions to the general ham public. That the texts and intent of their bulletins are in no way

different than a general interest bulletin transmitted by W1AW.

Maia has told Newsline that his petition is aimed only at stations operating as one-way broadcast like services and that packet and other modes will not be harmed.

But the packet community is refusing to buy Maia's explanation. They say anything that might be interpreted as negatively impacting on their operations will not be tolerated.

Comments on the Maia petition should be sent before May 4th to the Secretary, FCC, Washington, DC 20554. A copy of your filing on the matter should also be sent to Mr. Maia's lawyer, Raymond A. Kowalski in care of Keller and Heckman, 1001 G Street NW, Washington, DC 20001.

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NEWSLINE ASKS EXTENSION

In a related issue, Newsline has filed a petition to the FCC to extend the commentary cutoff date on RM-8626 to May 18th. This to give those taking part in an April 30th Bulletin Services Seminar at the Dayton Hamvention a chance to travel home and prepare comments to the FCC on the issue.

RM-8626 currently carries a May 4th commentary cutoff date. In our filing asking for an additional fourteen days we note the hardship on those attending the session in filing timely comments on the proposed regulatory change with only four days between the meeting and the current commentary cutoff date.

At airtime there has been no word from the Commission as to whether or not the extension we seek will be granted.

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DAYTON FORUM TO DISCUSS RM 8626

Also, Hap Holly, KC9RP who will be moderating the bulletin services forum at the upcoming Dayton Hamvention says that RM-8626 is now the main topic to be discussed. He says he has invited everyone involved in the controversial rules change request to take part. Already its sponsor Fred Maia, W6YI has agreed to speak. The bulletin services forum is scheduled for Sunday morning April 30th at 9:30 am in meeting room 3.

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FIRST CLASS PETITION DENIED

Jim Wells, N5HCT of Tyler, Texas has had his Petition for Rule Making to reestablish the First and Second Class commercial radiotelephone licenses denied by the FCC. The W5YI Report says that the commission turned Wells down on the basis that his request would create two commercial radio licenses for which the

agency has no requirements. Also that doing so would result in significant administrative burdens to the FCC.

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RETESTS ORDERED IN OKLAHOMA

This is a Newsline special report.

In a situation very reminiscent of last years situation in California, four amateur licensees in Oklahoma have been ordered by the Federal Communications Commission to be retested on suspect examinations.

The FCC says that the four took test elements from an ARRL volunteer examination team at two sessions in February and March of last year. And once again, just as in California, the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator, while making a routine check, discovered apparent irregularities at the two sessions. And as in the California cases, the ARRL immediately reported them to the FCC. Then, last December 14th the ARRL VEC suspended the accreditation of three volunteer examiners who were present at the two test sessions.

Now, the FCC has acted. It has ordered the four to take retests, within 60 days, all exam elements that they passed at the sessions under scrutiny. As is standard procedure, they must retake the exams at sessions coordinated by a volunteer examiner coordinator other than the ARRL VEC, and no volunteer examiner present at the earlier sessions may administer the reexaminations. The FCC says license classes and call signs of the four amateurs will be adjusted according to the results of their re-examinations. Neither the FCC nor the supervising VEC has released the names of the applicants or the volunteer examiners alleged to be involved.

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ARRL WILL NOT BE A COORDINATOR

The ARRL has reaffirmed that it has no interest in being a frequency coordinator. This league says that the FCC has agreed with other commenters who feel that the existing local frequency coordinators are the best qualified to accommodate amateur radio operations in the new 219 to 220 MHz band. As a result, the League says that the ARRL's role is defined as serving only as the national contact point. The League will also maintain a database of all amateur radio operations in the new band.

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CULVER CITY ANTENNA ORDINANCE

The City of Culver City, California unanimously approved the

introduction of an ordinance amending various sections of the Culver City Municipal Code relating to non-commercial, non-parabolic (Ham Radio) antennas. After a half-hour discussion on this matter (with several hams speaking and answering questions from the city council members), approval came at approx. 0035 hours PST on Tuesday morning, March 27, 1995 The ordinance will come up for reading next week and, hopefully, will be adopted.

The antenna ordinance is based upon Santa Monica's(CA) July 1994 antenna ordinance except for one change. In Santa Monica, repairing a damaged antenna allows it to be repaired to its pre-existing condition. In the draft ordinance, any damages to the antenna must be repaired to meet current code requirements.

Another key provision of the proposed ordinance says that an applicant must obtain a building permit prior to the installation of a ground mounted antenna structure or a roof mounted antenna structure for a roof mounted antennas weighing fifty pounds or more. An application for a use permit shall be reviewed on payment of a \$15 fee, and an application for a Building Permit shall be reviewed on payment of a \$25 fee.

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HAM ELECTROCUTED

Some sad news to report. Another amateur has been killed while erecting an antenna. The Dallas Morning News reported that on March 18th that Ernest Rutledge, KC5CQR, of Keller, Texas, was helping a friend install an antenna in his backyard. Something went wrong during the installation and Rutledge was electrocuted.

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MULTI LINGUAL SPACENEWS

Maurizio Bertolino has announced that he is translating issues of SpaceNews into the Italian language and making them available free of charge on his B-B-S in Italy. This raises the number of languages SpaceNews is available in to five. This includes English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, and now, Italian.

For those who are not familiar, Spacenews is a weekly space oriented newsletter dealing primarily with ham radio space related matters. Its written in New Jersey each week by John Magliacane, KD2DB and is distributed over packet radio and on the Internet. Its also the very first ham radio newsletter to be read in space.

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PBS TAPES HAM-SAT SHOW

Ken Ernandes, N2WWD reports that a PBS tape crew spent a very

productive day, Sunday March 19th at the QTH of John Gordon, KD2JF preparing material for a forthcoming segment of the program "Signal to Noise". According to Ken, the show is a special on the transition of military systems to commercial use.

During the taping Ken and John made 5 contacts on A0-10. Stations were worked in Italy, Switzerland, Spain and Ohio. Some video footage of satellite tracking software was also recorded as well as nice background footage of KD2JF's OSCAR antennas in motion. Q-S-L cards were shown off, including some for SAREX and MIR contacts as well as two-way OSCAR QSOs.

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CALL FOR PAPERS

For its 1995 AMSAT Annual Meeting and Space Symposium, will return to Orlando, Florida this year. Again for 1995, the Orlando Airport Holiday Inn will be the site for the gathering. Although the meeting is scheduled for October 6, 7 and 8, it is not too soon to start thinking about presenting a paper at this year's Symposium. The Chairman for Papers this year is Bob Walker, N4CU. Please contact him if you can honor us with your knowledge on a subject appropriate to amateur satellites. Bob can be reached on the internet at n4cu@amsat.org.

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AMSAT QSL BUREAU

Bruce Paige, KK5D0 sends along a reminder that the address for the AMSAT QSL bureau is the AMSAT QSL Bureau in care of Walt Rader, WA3DMF 3702 Allison St., Brentwood, MD 20722. Bruce also says that if you are going to send your envelopes, be sure to include postage for the new rates. All stateside cards sent to the bureau are free of charge. All others are 10 cents per card.

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NOAA-14 EXPERIENCES FAILURE

The motor for the Microwave Sounding Unit on the NOAA-14 spacecraft has stopped working, investigation into the failure is in progress. Records show the unit is from a delivery made to Martin Marietta dating back to 1984. Future NOAA spacecraft will not have this same unit--it will be replaced with a different type. NOAA-14 has been in orbit since last December.

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CLUB CALLS HERE

Also on the regulatory scene, word that the first of the new

Amateur Radio club station licenses. The first ones appear to have been issued on April 4.

The new club licenses come with systematically issued Group D call signs. Obtaining such a license and call sign is a necessary first step toward later obtaining a vanity call sign for your club.

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DX

In DX, a North Korean station signing P5BK has been reported active by W6 land stations. The station's activity has been on 15 and 20 meters CW between 22:30 and 00:00 UTC and saying to QSL via JA1BK.

And this for ARRL members making DXCC submissions or using the Outgoing QSL Service. There is no longer any need to remove the mailing label from your QST as proof of membership. The League says to simply make a photocopy of the label or of your membership certificate or wallet card or simply jot down your membership number on a separate piece of paper and send it in with your entry.

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JUDGE WANTS HACKER IN JAIL

And finally, a judge says that federal guidelines don't allow for a long enough sentence to punish a computer hacker -- charged in another case with espionage -- for trying to find out F-B-I secrets. So says United States District Court Judge Manual Real in his rejection of a plea bargain agreement between attorneys for convicted hacker Kevin Lee Poulson and federal prosecutors.

In rejecting the plea agreement Judge Real said he was particularly upset that Poulson tapped into a computer to get the names of undercover businesses operated by the FBI.

If the name Manual Real sounds familiar it is because he is the same federal judge who sentenced former ham Richard Burton -- the ex WB6JAC to jail for operating a ham station without being licensed.

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And for this week, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline. You can write to us at Post Office Box 660937 in Arcadia California 91066.

Before we go, this quick note for our listeners in Florida and the south east. Effective immediately, the newsline number in central Florida has been changed. The new number is area code

(407) 768-7447. The central Florida Newsline outlet is a service of for the Collins Amateur Radio Club of Melbourne.

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